

ArizonaSERVES Task Force

Friday, September 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Executive Tower, 8th Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Minutes

I. Special Presentation

Dr. Terry Crist began with a special presentation honoring Pastor Dan Yeary for over 20 years of service as he has led North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix. Under his leadership, North Phoenix Baptist Church has been a beacon of light, and has set the standard for community service, in central Phoenix. Dr. Crist presented Pastor Yeary with a certificate of appreciation signed by Governor Jan Brewer, thanking him for his unwavering leadership in service to the betterment Arizonans.

Pastor Yeary spoke briefly about his time in Arizona and his reason for moving to Texas in the coming month (his children live in Texas). He shared key points regarding the recent story of high-wire artist Nik Wallenda and his walk above the Grand Canyon:

- There was a very large team of people supporting Nik Wallenda. Engineers, technicians, pastors, prayer networks, and family. It was not a one-man show.
- Nik was walking the wire for one reason – legacy. His grandfather had once said, “all of life is on the wire, everything else is waiting.”
- Nik was showing people the gift he had been given by God, and he was honoring God by using it. Those who watched him pray as he walked the wire had no doubt who he was honoring.
- After everyone went home, Nik prayed all night and then spent the next day at the site of the walk picking up the trash left behind by those who came to watch him the day before. He was a true servant.

So we too, must serve “on the wire” with humility, grace and honor --- “all else is just waiting.”

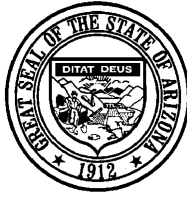
II. Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Terry M. Crist
Chair, ArizonaSERVES Task Force

Chair Dr. Terry Crist welcomed Task Force Members, Staff and guests to the September ArizonaSERVES Task Force meeting.

Newly appointed Task Force members were introduced:

- Kevin Hartke is the Pastor of Trinity Christian Fellowship in Chandler. He is also a Councilmember in Chandler, and he leads For Our City (www.forourcity.org).
- Chris Roussin is the Pastor of Lincoln Heights Christian Church in Phoenix. This congregation is heavily involved in foster care and adoption. He also serves on the No Child Waiting Coalition (www.nochildwaiting.org).
- Zane Anderson is the Pastor at Victory Worship Center in Tucson. He was unable to attend today.



ArizonaSERVES Task Force

Jamie Bennett thanked all of the Task Force members for their service and their commitment to helping Arizona children and families.

III. Review and Action – May 17, 2013 Task Force Meeting Minutes

Chair Crist received a motion to approve the May 17, 2013 Task Force Meeting Minutes from Betty Lynch, and a second by Sofia Tobar. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Staff Report and Community Updates

- Chuck Fitzgerald spoke of three community forums that have taken place in the past ten days. The forums announced the arrival of a DES transformation project in Prescott Valley, Phoenix and Tucson. The forums were well attended by community leaders who heard about the vision for a reinvented safety net; a safety net that is no longer program-centric, but rather a person-centric safety net. The transformation project begins October 1st in South Phoenix and early in 2014 in Prescott Valley and Tucson. All information relating to this project may be found at www.azdes.gov/transformation
- Chuck introduced Patsy Davis, April Jones, Nancy Bandusky and Berisha Black (not present) who are all part of the DES Office of Faith and Community. Their primary objectives are to engage faith and community organizations in DES's transformation and capacity building efforts.
- The Fostering Hope group at the Arizona Diamondbacks has begun a new initiative to support sibling groups in foster care. The main objective is to bring separated siblings together on a regular basis. A key component of the initiative is to launch a sibling camp beginning in 2014.
- The Gap Closing Collaborative launched on August 28th in Phoenix. This collaborative includes the Faith Opportunity Zone (Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, First Institutional Baptist Church and Tanner AME Church), DES, Arizona Community Foundation, and Casey Family Programs. The purpose of the collaborative is to focus on, and find solutions for, the overrepresentation of African American children in the Arizona Child Welfare System.
- The Children's Heart Gallery (www.ChildrensHeartGallery.org) launched in Phoenix in May, and launched in Tucson in August. A Flagstaff launch is scheduled for October 4, 2014. Another photo shoot is scheduled for September 21, 2013 in Tucson, where 30+ children in need of forever families will be loved on and photographed for the gallery.
- The Young Adult Program has a newly revised resource guide thanks to ArizonaSERVES volunteers. This guide is used by teenagers in foster care as an aide for navigating resources in the community. These young people are trained how to use the guide and how to advocate for themselves as they move into an independent life as an adult.
- Community leaders in Pima County are planning an "Our Kids Our Care" event on February 1, 2014 at Victory Worship Center in Tucson (<http://ourkidsourcare.org>). The purpose of this event is to recruit foster and adoptive families from the faith community in Pima County. The event is similar to the "Wait No More" event in Scottsdale in early 2012.
- ArizonaSERVES will be a key component in the October 9th "Ten City Covenant" meeting in New York City. A team of Arizona folks will be presenting at this meeting about the efforts of the Arizona faith community. The relationship between Arizona's state/local



ArizonaSERVES Task Force

governments and the faith community is very unique, and this uniqueness will be on display at the meeting to encourage other states and their faith communities to partner and collaborate as we do here --- especially relating to Child Welfare.

- Judith Fritsch updated attendees on Open Table's Young Adult model which helps young adults that are aging out of foster care to live into their human potential. Like the successful Open Table adult model, the young adult model will be implemented by congregations and their members.

Partners in the young adult collaboration include churches in Arizona, Iowa and Texas, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arrow Child & Family Ministries, Casey Family Programs, the City of Phoenix and Open Table. Pilot sites for the Open Table young adult model are Phoenix, Arizona; Houston, Texas; and Council Bluffs, Iowa. Both the Arizona Department of Economic Security and Casey Family Programs will refer young adults to become candidates for the Tables.

Young adult Tables will operate similarly to adult Tables: 8 – 12 months in length, building a plan for what life can look like in a year and the development of relationship and the investment of vocation and life experiences and networks by Table members.

The Open Table collaboration is planning to bring the young adult model to states across the country so any young adult that has aged out of the system can benefit from a Table if they want one.

Chair Crist encouraged Task Force members to connect folks in the DES Office of Faith and Community with faith organizations in their networks. Do this now, Open Table is ready to create Young Adult tables throughout the state. www.theopentable.org

- Katie O'Dell with Arizona 1.27 gave an update on the organization – a movement of Arizona churches engaging the child welfare system. They have noticed that when they collaborate, doors fall open and relationships happen freely. After 30 weeks, there are now 30 partner churches. To date, 1,320 people have been through foster care orientation at Arizona 1.27 churches; 400 of these have been through the next 6 hour class.

Nationally, 1 family becomes licensed for every 28 families that start the process. The goal for Arizona 1.27 is 1 out of every 8 that start the process.

When pastors hear the story (14,000+ children in out of home care), they are shocked and immediately called to the work. For instance, DC 127 has begun as a result of Arizona 1.27. This movement model will work in any faith community. Please visit www.az127.org for more information.

- Kirsten Johnson and Debbie Simmons spoke of the "Johnjay & Rich Care for Kids Foundation" and their Children's Heart Gallery initiative. It is our responsibility to build a community where children can thrive.

Johnjay and Rich were also in attendance, and both spoke about their passion to help children and families. They believe their role is to get the message out; they take pride in being an action oriented show that can raise money for worthy causes. They are storytellers, and people respond to those stories.

Rich and Christie have worked in group homes, Johnjay and Blake are adoptive parents. They both heard about the foster care crisis in Arizona while in their respective churches (Arizona 1.27 churches). When they heard it, they had to do something.



ArizonaSERVES Task Force

Debbie spoke about their "Foster a Heart" program that will raise money for their foster care initiatives by auctioning off hand-decorated canvases done by celebrities. Lady Gaga, Justin Beiber, Jonas Brothers, Snooki, Michael Oher, Paul Goldschmidt, and many others have participated.

Kirsten and Debbie unveiled their plans to create a professional looking, mobile heart gallery. The concept is a "Home is Where the Heart Is" display that looks like a home. A front door, with children's photos in the windows; a family room with children's photos above the sofa, and a kitchen with children's photos on the refrigerator. The gallery will have a very special call to action for viewers.

The Care for Kids Foundation is working with DCYF staff to ensure the appropriate highlighting of the children. The launch will be on National Adoption Day in November. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Chair Crist thanked this team for lending their celebrity to the issue of foster care.

- Upcoming events:
 - HopeFest Tucson will be on October 19, 2013 at Kino Stadium.
 - Serve Phoenix Day by Lincoln Heights Christian Church, November 19, 2013
 - Wayne Tesch, founder of Royal Family Kids Camps, will be in Phoenix on December 12th to speak with faith community leaders. Details will follow.
 - East Valley Mayors Prayer Breakfast, March 6, 2014 in Scottsdale.
 - HopeFest Phoenix will be on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at Chase Field.
 - "Free to Laugh: Laugh to Free" is a comedy fundraiser to help those caught in human trafficking. The event will be on May 10, 2014 in Phoenix (see attached).
 - Interfaith Sex Trafficking Summit will be held in Tempe on November 8, 2013 (see attached).

V. Task Force Strategies/Goals

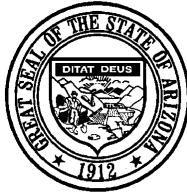
Chair Crist and staff walked attendees through a draft document listing strategies and goals for the ArizonaSERVES Task Force (see attached). After a lengthy discussion regarding what strategies we should focus on, and what goals we might attach to each strategy, Chair Crist asked staff to coordinate three meetings comprised of Task Force members to discuss strategies and goals for:

- Foster Family Recruitment
- Foster Family Resourcing
- Foster Family Retention

These calls will take place in October. Comments and suggestions from these calls will be incorporated into a revised Strategies/Goals Matrix, and an action plan will execute on the revised document. Chair Crist asked for each Task Force member to tell Chuck which of the three calls they'd like to participate on....and to do this as soon as possible.

VI. Call to the Public

Several members of the public were encouraged by the meeting and they voiced their appreciation for the efforts of the ArizonaSERVES Task Force and its members.



Arizona*SERVES* Task Force

VII. Closing Statements

None.

VIII. Adjourn

Next Arizona*SERVES* Task Force meeting is November 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Fitzgerald
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Office of Faith and Community
cfitzgerald@azdes.gov

Attachments

- 2013 - 2014 Meeting Schedule
- Strategies/Goals Matrix – draft
- Arizona*SERVES* and Children
- Open Table Ways to Serve
- CPS Office Support Ideas
- “Free to Laugh: Laugh to Free” flier
- “Inter-faith Sex Trafficking Summit” flier